



# ***M/V Cosco Busan Oil Spill and National Marine Sanctuaries: Involvement, Lessons Learned, and Next Steps***



*February 15, 2008*

*GFNMS and MBNMS Joint Advisory Council Meeting*

# Spill Response Status Update

Most shoreline segments in “Maintenance & Monitoring” mode:  
schedule finalized mid-January, on-going discussions on revising schedule

A few shoreline segments have outstanding issues:  
e.g. Bolinas Lagoon, Tennessee Valley Beach

Push to initiate shoreline sign-off for segments meeting cleanup  
endpoints

Discussions on complication of two tarball sources: Cosco Busan,  
Monterey Formation



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# National Marine Sanctuary Involvement

Sanctuary Staff, FMSA staff, and Volunteers were involved in both the Emergency Response and Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) functions

Most intense Response staffing from November 8-January 14 and NRDA-related staffing between November 8 - November 24: 33,95 (12 GFNMS staff, 10 FMSA staff, 5 MBNMS staff, 4 CBNMS staff, 2 ONMS-HQ staff, 95 Beach Watch Surveyors)

MBNMS, CBNMS, ONMS-HQ staff helped carry out GFNMS base business during most intense Emergency Response/NRDA stages

Additional offers of help from CINMS, West Coast Region



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# National Marine Sanctuary Involvement

## Command Post

- Environmental Unit / Technical Advisory Group: 4 (2 GFNMS, 2 CBNMS)
- Liaison Unit: 4 (2 GFNMS, 1 CBNMS, 1 ONMS-HQ)
- Joint Information Center: 4 (1 GFNMS, 1 CBNMS, 1 MBNMS, 1 ONMS-Santa Barbara)
- NRDA Liaison: 2 (2 MBNMS)



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# National Marine Sanctuary Involvement

## Response - Wildlife Operations

Staff and Volunteers reported and collected live oiled birds for OWCN: 14  
(8 FMSA, 5 Volunteers, 1 GFNMS)



## Response - Field Operations

- Staffed Shoreline Clean-up Assessment Teams (SCAT) from December 5 through January 14: 8 (4 GFNMS, 4 FMSA)
- Beach Watch Surveyors assisting Maintenance & Monitoring Teams through June 2008: 95 (Volunteers, FMSA, GFNMS)



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# National Marine Sanctuary Involvement

## NRDA Command Post at Presidio

Office: 7 (4 GFNMS, 1 MBNMS, 2 FMSA)



## NRDA Field Operations

- Beached Bird Model Daily
- Special Surveys: 70 (Volunteers, FMSA, GFNMS)
- Regular Surveys: 95 (Volunteers, FMSA, GFNMS)



## Dead Oiled Wildlife Intake Station:

17 (10 FMSA, 3 GFNMS, 3 Volunteers, 1 MBNMS)

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# What Worked Well

- Commitment of Staff and Surveyors; Overall teamwork
- Assistance and high level of support from Monterey Bay, Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries and HQ, as well as other ONMS: we worked as one efficient team
- Experience of 2006 Safe Seas Oil Spill Response Drill
  - Training classes and certifications (e.g. HazWoper24, ICS, SCAT)
  - Familiarity with other responders and agencies
  - Experience in a Command Post and in field activities
  - Practice integrating Beach Watch into Response
- GFNMS Draft Final Emergency Response Plan and Planning prepared staff by clarifying roles and tasks and providing training



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# What Worked Well

- This was the best organized GFNMS Emergency Response
- Beach Watch historic baseline data informed Clean-Up Endpoints for Sanctuary shoreline segments
- Sanctuary staff had excellent connections with other agencies so could get information and feedback quickly
- Collaboration with National Park Service (GGNRA, PRNS)



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# Lessons Learned

- High level of long-term sustained effort needed to participate in Emergency Response and NRDA
  - Simultaneous requirement of attending to core business: need to identify core operations and make arrangements
  - Staff burn-out: need for relief and break schedule
- Increase level of education about National Marine Sanctuaries: outreach to new US Coast Guard Incident Management Division staff and to Strike Team
- Value of a site-specific Emergency Response Plan and planning effort
- Importance of commitment to staff training and certification renewal



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# Lessons Learned

- Participating in Area Contingency Planning: familiarity and contribution to response plans, well-developed personal relationships with other responding agency staff
- Importance in participating in Spill Drills
  - Need for advanced training in issues like Clean-Up Endpoints, Net Environmental Benefits Analysis
- Importance of experienced response and support staff
- Protection strategies for outer coast estuaries did not work; protection strategies for open coastline sensitive environments are very limited



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## Next Steps

- Update GFNMS, MBNMS Emergency Response Plans based on lessons learned
- Assemble SAC Vessel Spills Working Group
- Continue staff training and participation in spill response drills
- Add training in live oiled wildlife rescue/capture
- Continue participation in Area Contingency Planning and partnership-building, encourage re-look at outer coast protection strategies
- Pursue conducting outreach about Sanctuaries to responders
- Contribute to West Coast Region efforts to compile staff skill/training lists, help other sites that want to develop site response plans, share experiences with other NMS sites planning drills
- Develop in-house NRDA plan



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